HISTORIC TRAIL RESEARCH

Steve F. Russell
26393 520th Ave
Ames, Iowa 50014-9554
Tel: 515-450-7630
sfr@iastate.edu

November 17, 2014

Ryan M. Cooper, Geographer
Lewis and Clark NHT
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102
(402) 661-1868
ryan_m_cooper@nps.gov

Neal J. Bedlan, Outdoor Recreation Planner
Lewis and Clark NHT
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102-4226
(402)661-1816
(402)661-1817 fax

Dear Ryan and Neal,

I am sending the information Ryan requested in our phone call of Nov 17. The following paragraphs give a short description of what is in each file. I was very happy to hear that historic trail preservation is a priority. The files on historic preservation are somewhat scrambled but I think you can get the full picture from what I am sending. Let me know any questions you have or if I can help further.

Good luck with your projects.

Steve

PS: I have been doing this sleep deprived so I hope it all makes sense.....

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This .zip file contains the following .PDF files:

Lolo-Trail-NHL-RegisterNomination-Russell-Ed.pdf

This file contains the information I have obtained on the Lolo Trail National Historic Landmark over the years. The nomination form and maps the former Idaho State Historian Merle Wells ("Mr. Idaho History") sent me are in this file.

I will be happy to update the boundaries to include protection for Nez Perce sites. I do not have the archeology records from the Idaho SHPO or the USFS so they would have to add that info to the boundaries. Because of the sensitive nature of their data, I have avoided knowledge of it. However, I know of several things myself so I will include that in my boundaries if you choose to use my services.

Idaho-HS-Official-LCT-Route-1990.pdf

Larry Jones (retired Idaho State Historian) told me in the mid-1990s that the Idaho State Historical Society and his office had an "official document" that represented their knowledge of the location of the Lewis & Clark Trail. I avoided using it in my research, for reasons of independent views, but I did look at it in 2011 to see how it compared. In my opinion, it has a few errors but was good for management in its time. Larry also

said that it may not agree with Merle's NHL application and it was not meant to.

Lewis and Clark over Lost Trail Pass-WPO-97.pdf

I think it was 1997 when the Salmon-Challis National Forest held a 2-day workshop in Salmon, Idaho on the location of the L&C route over Lost Trail Pass. They invited all the researchers that were active. Day 1 was for presentations. Day 2 was a field trip where we hiked to all the candidate campsites on the divide. This publication has been sold since 2000. From my write-up, you will see how I do research on a route before hiking it. It this case, there was no trail tread to be found even though we use the word 'trail' to describe their route. I don't believe Ted Hall is a skilled researcher or he would not be telling newspaper reporters that "I've searched long and hard to find someone who has hiked this section using the expedition's maps and compass readings. I have yet to find a one." He does know about my work.

00-Historic-Trail-Management (Lolo Trail) 2010-03-10.pdf

This is a 75-page document I sent to the Idaho L&C Governor's Committee, at their request. I got essentially no response. They had been funding projects by Chuck Raddon that were opening trail tread and doing other development in the Lolo Trail NHL so I think the were a little embarrassed to realize they were messing with a National Historic Landmark.

There is a lot of information in this document and I feel it tells the best story I could tell in 2010 given the time constraints I had in preparing it.

In particular, I refer you to the pages that show color maps of the changes made to the Landmark trails.

At the end of the document, I have also included the 1993 Mire Creek field meeting with USFS, Nez Perce, myself, and others where we discussed management of the Lolo Trail National Historic Monument with members of the Nez Perce Tribe. As far as I know, this went nowhere within the Forest Service or the Tribe. Actually, it is amazing that this happened but I had good rapport with some tribal members in those years. I have doubts this could happen in today's adversarial climate.

05-Lolo-Trail-Documentation-Preservation-1989.pdf

This was one of my first documents on historic preservation of the Lolo Trail NHL. It is the document I remember mentioning to you guys. It was given to the Clearwater National Forest and probably put into their 'round file.' I received no response although I believe Tom Geouge (long time retired) did try some of the ideas when he was in charge if signage and trail opening of the Bird-Truax Trail (Buffalo Trail). I remember that they did give me some lip service about a photo inventory of the trail with periodic monitoring of changing conditions but they never acted on it.

03-LLT-NHL-Preservation-02.pdf

I wrote this in 2010 for the Idaho L&C Committee but sorry I cannot remember the circumstances. They might have requested a summary from me.

04-Appendix-B-Jones-Letter-1999.pdf

Before he retired, Larry Jones (Idaho State Historian) asked me to write up some preservation stuff and make comments on what I had seen as to changes and developments that were being made by the Forest Service. As far as I know, nothing was ever done with this information and the USFS kept right on opening tread and doing development. I hope it gives you some idea of what I was seeing and how I felt.

06-Public-Comment-Letter-1992.pdf

This was my preservation and documentation concerns for the portion of the L&C Trail that was on the Montana side of Lolo Pass. I never got a response of any kind and I don't think my comments made any difference but it gives you another look at my preservation ideas.

2014 L&C Governor's Committee Presentation V05.pdf

This is my powerpoint presentation at Powell Ranger Station on Sep 14, 2014. It basically tells the story I wanted to tell about trail history and preservation. Some of the attendees were the Idaho L&C Trail Governor's Committee, Keith Peterson (Idaho State Historian), Jim Fazio (Past President of the L&C Trail Foundation), Carol Hennessy & 3 Clearwater NF staff, Clearwater NF Forest Supervisor Rick Brazell, Chuck Raddon, Margaret Gorski, and some others I did not know. The chair of the committee is Bob Russell so there are two Russells in this meeting!

Idaho Gov L&C Committee Minutes 2014.pdf

This is the meeting minutes for Sept 14, 2014. They summarized my key preservation issues. In the verbal part of the presentation, I told it as I saw it to the Forest Service. Rick Brazell and I hit it off and I think he was very receptive to most of the ideas, unfortunately he is going to retire next year. The revolving chairs in the Forest Supervisor and Forest Archeologist positions make it difficult to have a coherent policy about Historic Trails. That is why a document that they will embrace is so important so it can live beyond any of the key personalities.

Clearwater NF National Historic Trail O&M Guidelines Draft.pdf

I have only recently become aware of this document and I don't know where I got it, either off the web or maybe somebody sent it to me. Part of its purpose is to define, very narrowly, what they consider historic trails. It is ironic since they don't really know what is what on the National Historic Landmark. To this day, they insist that it is all vague and there are so many opinions to consider. I am quite insulted by there attitude but since so few people are aware of scholarly research methods, I chalk it up to ignorance. I do feel it was an attempt to hold me off in those days when I was really pushing for guidelines.

Experience the Lolo Trail 2009.pdf

I found this on the internet. It is one of the work projects by Chuck Raddon. Over the years, these projects were sold as 'maintanence' to funding agencies and Idaho SHPO when, in fact, there was trail tread opening going on as well. That is why we have over 36 miles of historic trail tread modernized! However, they have also done a lot of good in cleanup and brushing of tread that has already been opened. Using these projects, and using Nez Perce trail crews, a lot of trail modernization has occurred which includes reroutes, switchback extensions, waterbars, two bridges at Indian Grave, etc, etc.